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Attorneys issue list of demands, deadline to Rev. Al Sharpton

BY MARGARET BAKER
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The attorneys for three young men who were with Nolan Xavier Wells before he went missing have given the Rev. Al Sharpton a 10-day deadline to publicly apologize, retract and delete alleged defamatory statements about their clients, or

face a defamation lawsuit the attorneys described as imminent.

On Tuesday, Sharpton's attorneys issued a statement calling the claims in the threatened lawsuit "meritless," and said he will "neither be silenced nor retract statements he did not make."

The attorneys representing Warren Hudson, Jax Pitalo and

Morgan Seymour are Mississippi attorney Tyler Cox and Edward Andrew Paltzik, a high-profile defamation and media law attorney.

Hudson, Pitalo and Seymour were among the friends who were with Wells before he went missing during a July 4 trip to Horn Island, about 10 miles off the Mississippi coast.

Wells, an 18-year-old student-



Provided

Al Sharpton speaks July 10 about the death of Nolan Wells, with Wells' parents Christine (left) and Elmore Wonsley.

athlete, was found dead two days later.

In a letter to Sharpton's attorneys, Cox and Paltzik alleged

that Sharpton defamed the three men during a July 14 interview

SEE SHARPTON, 4A



HANNAH RUHOFF Sun Herald file

Cruisers pass out flags and throws during the Long Beach Parade in Long Beach, one of the most popular events during the 8-day show of antique and classic cars. This year is the 30th anniversary of the event and will be combined with a salute to America 250.

Big changes coming for the 30th anniversary of Cruisin' The Coast

BY MARY PEREZ
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The 30th anniversary of Cruisin' The Coast delivers extra horsepower this year with a combination antique and classic car show and America 250 birthday salute.

The largest event in Mississippi and the USA Today's most popular car show in the

country seven years running, it's already set a record even before Cruisin' returns Oct. 4-11 to South Mississippi.

"The enthusiasm has been building for quite some time for this year," said Woody Bailey, executive director of Cruisin' The Coast. "Our registrations have been stronger than we've ever had before."

Typically, early registration closes Aug. 15 and runs a couple

of hundred antique and classic cars ahead of the previous year. This year's early registration was running 500 to 700 ahead of last year's record pace, he said, even after a computer glitch caused issues and extended the deadline a couple of days to get the registrations complete.

"Pre-registration closed at 9,271 — that's the highest ever," Bailey said.

The number to beat this year, when registration reopens at the start of the event, is the 10,334 cars, trucks and hot rods registered in 2025, with registered vehicles coming from 42 states, Australia, Canada, England and Germany.

BIG CHANGES ON THE WAY
Cruisin' The Coast started in

SEE CRUISIN', 6A

Gulf Ship plans \$43M project in Gulfport, creating 121 jobs

BY TIM THORSEN
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Shipbuilding company Gulf Ship is investing more than \$43 million to expand its operations in Gulfport, a project that is expected to create 121 jobs, according to the Mississippi Development Authority.

Gulf Ship, an Edison Chouest Offshore company, has operated in Gulfport for more than two decades and is undertaking a major modernization of its existing shipbuilding and steel fabrication facilities, according to a news release from the MDA. The project is expected to increase Gulf Ship's production capacity, introduce advanced manufacturing technologies and further position the Gulfport operation to support growing demand for U.S.-built commercial and government vessels.

The project includes significant upgrades to existing production buildings and supporting infrastructure, as well as the installation of new automated steel fabrication and assembly equipment. Planned investments include advanced panel and subassembly production lines, T-beam fabrication equipment, automated and robotic welding systems, material handling improvements and other modern shipbuilding technologies that will improve

SEE GULF SHIP, 8A

Why Bay St. Louis is drawing New Orleans couples to marry

BY MARTHA SANCHEZ
NewOrleansAdvocate.com

Joseph Crapanzano's family from New Orleans has owned a camp on the Mississippi Coast since just after Hurricane Katrina. His wife grew up outside Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and often visited the Coast with her family.

So getting married in Bay St.

Louis earlier this summer made sense.

"It's where our two lives met," Crapanzano said.

The Crapanzanos — who were married in June — are among a growing number of couples from New Orleans and across Louisiana who are choosing to tie the knot in fast-growing Bay St. Louis. Some say venues in the Mississippi Coast city are less expensive than many in New

Orleans. Others like the change of scenery.

And many still feel at home.

"The Coast is becoming kind of an extension of New Orleans," said Crapanzano, who works as a financial advisor. He and his wife, Taylor Crapanzano, wed at Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church and hosted their reception at the Bay-

SEE BAY ST. LOUIS, 2A



Courtesy of Joseph Crapanzano

Joseph and Taylor Crapanzano were married in June at Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church and hosted their reception at the Bay Waveland Yacht Club in Bay St. Louis.



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